TRACER

McHENRY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

(An Illinois Not-For-Profit Corp)

6422 Main Street, Union, Illinois 60180

Telephone: 815 923 2267

Editor: Ruth L. Cripe

Volume II - No. 3 Quarterly Newsletter Spring, 1976

13TH ANNUAL MEETING
June 13, 1976 - 2 P. M. - at Museum - Union, Illinois

PROGRAM:

A Bicentennial Program "Page in American History in Poetry and Song" presented by Robert and Janice Bosman of Woodstock, Illinois. The ones who have had the pleasure of seeing this program, say that it is one you will long remember.

The Nominating Committee for the election of directors and officers on June 13, 1976 are as follows: Alice Colver, Chairperson, Henry Marlowe and Avis Pankonin. According to our By-Laws all the members present will elect the Directors. After the meeting the Directors will then elect a President, Vice President and Treasurer.

The Grand Opening of the McHenry County Historical Museum will be on Sunday, July 4, 1976 at 2 P.M. to 5 P.M. The Honorable Robert McClory, U. S. Representative of the 12th District of Illinois, will be there to present the society with an American Flag that has flown over the Capitol in Washington D. C. The program will be presented by Shuji Kimura, one of our Directors. It is not a long program, but one that will prove very interesting to you. He has traveled several hundred miles in McHenry County taking pictures of houses, etc., that were built many, many years ago and show how they have been preserved. He has used books of etchings of the different homes, taking pictures of them, and then covered many areas in the county for the "today" pictures. He has made slides of all pictures and this is his contribution for the Bicentennial, with help from other interested persons in the county.

As mentioned in the last TRACER, we have named the Exhibit Hall in honor of Floyd E. Eckert who was on the first board of directors in 1963, and the Plaque has been placed on the wall, in his memory.

New Members since last TRACER:

Mr. & Mrs. C. W. Coons
315 Forrest Street
Woodstock, Illinois

Mr. & Mrs. Charles J. Fecks
951 Abington Street
Crystal Lake, Illinois

McHenry Women's Club
Mrs. Arnold Magnusen
McHenry, Illinois

Elaine J. Miller
9405 North Alden Road
Alden, Illinois

Mrs. Walter F. Palmer
19805 Beck Road
Marengo, Illinois

Ma rgaret C. Stone
733 North Seminary Ave.
Woodstock, Illinois

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Vycital
3413 West Waukegan Road
McHenry, Illinois

Miss June Whipple
200 Hayes Street
Harvard, Illinois

Miss Alice Wilcox
520 N. Madison St.
Woodstock, Illinois

Mrs. Hope Wilson
9507 North Alden Road
Alden, Illinois

Mr. Robert J. Witek
9508 Harmony Hill Road
Marengo, Illinois

Mrs. Ray Wolf
915 Laurel Avenue
Woodstock, Illinois

We all WELCOME you and hope to see you on June 13, 1976 at 2 P. M.

Clay Malaker of Marengo Boy Scout Troop #163, worked for his Eagle Scout Badge with the help of his brother Eric, Bruce Richardson, Jim Georgieff, Pat Sandy and Edward Urban, all of Marengo, refurbishing the West McHenry Post Office unit and setting it up.

Now that Clay Malaker has completed his project to earn an Eagle Scout Badge, his brother, Eric, wants to start his project which will be to help George Meyers of Woodstock, clean up the old Woodstock Fire Engine which is now in place at the Museum.

Mr. Harrison of Marengo, owner of The Harrison House has agreed that our society could again set up a display in one of his windows during Marengo's Settlers Days. Don't forget to look at it.

The AAA Security Company, Inc., of Crystal Lake has finished the installation of our security system and we thank them for the fine donation of the system and labor to install it. Now we will feel more secure about all of the wonderful McHenry County artifacts we are helping to preserve for future generations to enjoy. Remember TODAY will be YESTERDAY, so you may have some items that will become the artifacts of TOMORROW. So donate them to the museum now before they are lost forever.

The jail door from the old Court House in Woodstock is now at the museum. Eugene V. Debs of railroad strike notoriety was incarcerated in the Woodstock Jail and Clarence Darrow, the famous lawyer of yesteryear defended him and visited him in his cell.

One jail cell from the Village Hall of the Village of Union, will soon be installed in the Floyd E. Eckert Exhibit Hall.

Since the last TRACER was sent out the furnace boiler has had to be repaired which was estimated to cost between $3000.00 and $3500.00. The work is complete now but we have not received the actual bill as yet. We are asking all members to please pay their 1976-1977 dues promptly as they are due on or before June 1st. Some members owe past dues and it would help us immensely if you could also pay those at the same time. All dues are used for the maintenance of the Museum. Any donations will be appreciated also, and they are tax deductible.

The society supported the movement to save the old iron bridge in McHenry by writing letters to the Bicentennial Commission of the County, and to Mayor Stanek and the City Council of McHenry.

Mrs. Louis Marchi, Librarian of the Woodstock Library, graciously loaned us old photographs, primarily from the Woodstock area and copies have been made for our files by Chester Nelson, Treasurer of the society. We hope other libraries in the county will follow suit.

Did you know that not until 1785, right and left shoes were introduced in England? Before that time all shoes were alike. The museum has a pair of children's shoes that are the same last. It was an old Egyptian custom to paint the figure of an enemy on the soles of one's sandals so you could insult him daily by treading him under foot. Napoleon ordered 24 pair of shoes at a time, one pair delivered every two weeks and lasting two years. Abraham Lincoln wore size 14-B shoes; Calvin Coolidge size 8-B; and Teddy Roosevelt size 9-C.

VOLUNTEERS: Since the last issue of the TRACER, mailed on March 1, 1976.

Alden
Mr. & Mrs. Herman Pankonin

Algonquin
Mrs. Charles C. Curran

Cary
Mrs. Charles E. Martin
John Martin

Crystal Lake
Dr. D. G. Boaudeau, DDS
Installed dental equipment.

Crystal Lake
Mr. & Mrs. Sanford Walkup
Dan and Mike Walkup (sons)
Scott McClanahan (friend)
Mrs. Shelley (Mrs. Walkup's mother)
Mrs. Ray Walkup (Sandy's mother)

Volunteers (continued)

Harvard
Mrs. Thresile Mulvenna

Hebron
Miss Alice Bailey
Miss Frances Bailey

Huntley
Mrs. Earl Conley
Miss Margaret Conley
Miss Frances Crowley

Marengo
Mr. & Mrs. Otis E. Cripe
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hansen

Union
Steve Hildebrandt (Custodian)
Arnold Schmidt

Wonder Lake
Fred Sell
Dr. D. C. Sturm

Woodstock
Miss Eleanor Averill
Miss Alice Clark
Miss Leta Clark
Mrs. Maynard Howell
Miss Evelyn Johansen
Miss Margaret Stone
Everett Thomas

McHenry
Mrs. Nancy Fike

Hampshire
Mrs. Seyller

Elgin
Chester I. Nelson

We could not get along without our faithful volunteers. Thank you.

DO YOU KNOW?

What happened to the flag won at the Old Settler's Picnic in 1876? It was won by Seneca Township for having the largest number of persons in attendance? It was supposed to have been the largest flag made at that time?

Does anyone have a coal scuttle and shovel they would be willing to part with, and also some large lumps of hard coal? Maybe it will take 3 people, each donating one of the above items?

WE WANT YOU TO KNOW

Our inquiry in the last issue of the TRACER regarding Lafe Van Theusen (optional spelling Vanthusen) of Crystal Lake brought forth this response from Miss Ethel Raue of Crystal Lake - His real name was Lafayette Vanthusen, nicknamed "Lafe". He worked for Andrew H. Henderson, Jr., who was sheriff from 1910 to 1914 (she was not sure if he also was a detective for the Chicago Northwestern Railroad). He lived at the corner of Main Street and Crystal Lake Avenue where the former Dr. Lindberg had his office for many years. When the Raue Hardware store was burglarized back in 1910-1914 term of Sheriff Henderson, he and Lafe Vanthusen traced the culprit to Ft. Atkinson, Wisconsin and caught an illiterate negro who had taken all the watches from the repair rack of Ben Raue, watch repair man. The culprit told them to wait until a certain freight train caboose came into the yards, and when it did he led them to it and opened the safe and there were all the watches. The detectives were bringing him back to Crystal Lake at night when he asked to be allowed to get a drink of water. They unlocked his handcuffs and when he didn't come back immediately, they stopped the train and called out they would shoot if he didn't surrender. He came back and said he had doubled himself into a ball and thrown himself out the open window while the train was traveling 40-50 miles an hour. He was unhurt except for a broken little finger. He was sent to Joliet. Miss Raue did not remember about his sleight of hand performances.

Our inquiry regarding the two "What's Its". A response from Mrs. Roy F. Todd thought the one received from Thresile Mulvenna of Harvard, was a milk "bucket" washer for

buckets used in door to door delivery of milk. Mrs. Frank Motley of Richmond thought it was a cork remover. Mrs. Ida Koberstine of Spring Grove still has one and it is used to clean lamp chimneys of kerosene lamps. The other What's It, received from Mr. & Mrs. Roy E. Thomas was also mentioned by Mrs. Koberstine, but she did not know what it was for, but was going to look in back files of antique magazines. Miss Eleanor Averill of Woodstock also said it was a chimney cleaner for kerosene lamps.

We sent a picture of the other "What's It" to the Americana magazine published in New York. They wrote asking permission to print the picture of it in their magazine as they did not know what it was either. It should be in the June or July issue. We hope someone will know what it is. This was the one given by Mr. & Mrs. Roy E. Thomas of Marengo.

Hope to see all of you at the 13th Annual Meeting at the Museum on Sunday, June 13, 1976 at 2 P. M. - also at the Grand Opening of the Museum on July 4, 1976 from 2 PM to 5 PM.

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